

Importance of social determinants for successful vaccination in R. Macedonia

Strahil Todorov, Darinka Gjorgieva Ackova

Faculty of Medical Sciences, Goce Delčev University - Štip, R. Macedonia

Currently, there are multiple vaccines available worldwide and maybe the most important ones are those designated for routine childhood immunizations. The successfulness of immunization programs depends on multiple parameters.

A recent data's suggests that social determinants have a substantial impact on routine childhood vaccination being the most important reasons for under- or non-vaccination in low- and middle-income countries. These can in turn affect developing of specific individual immunity and the introduction of new vaccines and updating of the immunization calendar for general population.

The main social determinants (which can vary among different countries) are: 1) household living conditions and parents educations; 2) religious and minority groups; 3) war and civil unrest and migration; 4) urban vs. rural residence; 5) accessibility to immunization programs and governance level of involvement; 6) information/misinformation through the media and internet; 7) popularity of complementary and alternative medicine; 8) safety concerns; 9) financial factors;

To address the above mentioned social determinants, various strategies are suggested and performed by official regulatory agencies in our country. The first step, recognizing the magnitude of importance of social determinants, is made, and on this base future interventions are of particular importance for design of appropriate and effective vaccination programs.

Keywords: vaccines; immunization; social determinants